



Become a Citizen Scientist for New Quarter Park project

January 28, 2009

FOR RELEASE AT WILL

Become a citizen scientist this spring at New Quarter Park by monitoring plants for Project Budburst, a national climate change observation and research initiative.

Volunteers will record the time of biological events such as first budding, leafing and flowering, called phenological events. The data will be submitted by the park to the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research to support a national study concerning the impact of regional average temperature change.

Project Budburst volunteers will sign up in the New Quarter Park office to make daily to weekly observations of plants. Activity sheets are available and volunteers can choose particular plants that interest them, recording when their plant's phenological events first occur, such as when the first buds open or seeds are disbursed. Plants to be observed at the park include Common Dandelion, Flowering Dogwood, Eastern Red Columbine, Jack in the Pulpit, Mayapple, Red Maple, and Tulip Poplar. Project Budburst information sheets describe which phenophase events are to be recorded for each plant.

Consider making this activity a project for your Scout Troop, Garden Club, home schoolers, or grandchildren, or participate as an individual to learn about plants and climate change while getting outdoors for daily recreation or exercise.

An optional information session will be held at the park at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009, to welcome volunteers and to instruct those unfamiliar with plant identification and observation in phenological events. Please call York County Parks and Recreation for additional information at 890-3500.

Photo Caption: Red Maples will be observed for Project Budburst at New Quarter Park. This tree's bursting buds are among the first signs of spring.

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